



MARITZBURG COLLEGE

30 March 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

END-OF-TERM NEWSLETTER – TERM 1

We have come to the end of what has been a manic 11 weeks of frenetic activity, and look back with a sense of pride and accomplishment on all that our boys and staff have managed to achieve. College boys continue to perform at the top level in all that they do, and we are truly blessed with the talent, commitment and dedication of our boys and staff. This is reflected in the detailed report on all the activities in Term 1.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

What is of concern is that a large number of boys have been caught cheating in assessments and they have been reprimanded and punished for this, often resulting in a zero mark. The whole school was spoken to by Deputy Headmaster of Academics Mrs Finnie, who reminded them of our core values and what is required from them when doing assessments, tests and examinations, as well as the consequences thereof if they do cheat. Your support in this regard is required, because if they do so in an NSC examinations, which has happened before, they will need to wait between 2 and 3 years, depending on the severity of the offence, before they can sit the exams again. The same applies if boys are caught using chatGPT without acknowledging sources and suitable referencing. We will ensure that we educate the boys further in the correct use of chatGPT during the course of Term 2. It is certainly a tool that can be used positively and effectively to enhance teaching and learning.

IBSC CONFERENCE

Recently six staff members attended the IBSC National Conference at Grey High School at Gqeberha with the topic "*Back to the Future?*". We were treated to excellent presentations by a number of key-note speakers, each of whom contributed significantly to a very enriching experience. The presentations were inspiring, informative and challenging, and encouraged considerable thought and discussion.

Key themes emerging from the conference were:

- Our responsibility as schools is not schooling, but education.
- The need for schools to adapt who they are to where boys are now.
- When are traditions helpful to help us to stand tall in the world?
- Does tradition hold us back?
- How do schools manage the increasing impact of technology on our boys?
- Schools have a responsibility to teach boys to be decent human beings and good men.
- By embracing diversity, we also get the value of diversity of thought.
- Are we listening to the voices of boys? Are they thriving?
- We must guard unity with all that we have.
- There is no plan B, if schools fail, it all fails.
- The place of boys' schools, and the challenges being faced by men and boys.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONCERNS

One of the key-note speakers was Christy Herselman, who spoke at College recently. Her topic was "Is their tech our problem?". It was brought home with alarming force how social media and the boys' cell phones are impacting on their daily lives and the imminent serious danger of what is easily available. The increased use of porn at the early age of 11 is a major concern and hence the need for parents to put systems in place to know exactly what your son is viewing and with whom he is connecting. The school will be clamping down more severely on the illegal use of cell phones during class and the school day, and the boys will be informed of this. Your support in this regard is crucial.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PREFECTS 2023

Congratulations to **L Sithole (Forder)** and **S Sithembu (Lamond)** who have been appointed as School Prefects and were inducted at the end of term dedication service on Wednesday 29th March.

STAFFING UPDATE

Sadly we bid farewell to **Mr MJ Smit (Nathan House)** after 14 years of dedicated service to his alma mater in a variety of roles; he and his family are relocating and following a different career path. **Mr S Mkhwanazi (Pape House)** is also leaving to take up a position at Hilton College. We thank them both for their passion, dedication and contribution to College and wish them well.

2023 Term 2 Terminations

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Geography/ADH/ABEHM | Mr Claude Pitout |
| 2. Contract Admissions Secretary (Apr 2023) | Mrs Bidy Parker |
| 3. Geography Educator/Day Housemaster | Mr Adam Usher |

Current Vacancies

1. School Psychologist
2. Registered Nurse
3. Director of Performing Arts
4. Director of Music
5. IT Intern

2023 Term 2 Appointments

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Geography Educator | Miss Jenna Muirhead |
| 2. isiZulu | Mr Kwanda Zakwe |
| 3. Afrikaans Educator | Mr Daww Steyn |
| 4. HoD Pastoral Care/ Part Time Geography Educator | Mr Nigel Sutherland |
| 5. Estates Administrator | Mrs Vanessa Gramani |
| 6. Student Care & Well Being Officer | Mrs Lauren Barbour |
| 7. Business Studies/EMS Locum (May to September) | Miss Shanine Parmanand |
| 8. Assistant Admissions Secretary | Mrs Charmaine Paterson |

2023 Term 2 Promotions

Congratulations to the following staff on their promotions. We wish them well in their new roles.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Assistant Estates Manager | Mrs Shannon Elliot |
| 2. Day Housemaster Pape | Mr Meiring Kritzinger |
| 3. Day Housemaster Calder | Mr Graham Dorling |
| 4. Deputy BE Housemaster Clark House | Mr Wynand Greyling |
| 5. Deputy BE Housemaster Nathan House | Mr Paul Gonlag |
| 6. Day Housemaster Nicholson | Mr Brandon de Lange |
| 7. Assistant Day Housemaster Lamond | Mr Jacques Wilcock |
| 8. Assistant Day Housemaster Pape | Mr Francois Maritz |
| 9. Assistant Day Housemaster Calder | Mrs Kerry Bartholomew |
| 10. Assistant Day Housemaster Commons | Mrs Debbie Gademan |
| 11. Admissions Secretary [From 01 May 2023] | Mrs Reshnee Ramdeen |

- Cross country
- Virtus challenge

The updated standings are as follows:

House	Bover Week	Gala	Culture House Sing	Hockey	Rugby	Soccer	Leadership	Shoot	Table Tennis	Bball	Cricket	Chess	X Country	Athletics	Squash	Virtus	Academics	House Spirit	OVERALL POINTS
Calder	14	34								6.5	8.5		17	34		10			124
Fuller	8	12								12	14.5		10	28		18		17	119.5
Nicholson	9	24								6.5	8.5		9	14		24		17	112
Commons	11.5	10								9.5	14.5		14	18		34			111.5
Barns	6	18								17	8.5		12	16		28			105.5
Forder	17	20								9.5	5		8	24		14			97.5
Lamond	10	14								14	14.5		6.5	20		18			97
Strachan	11.5	28								9.5	6		5	22		12			94
Snow	5	22								9.5	11		11	10		18			86.5
Pape	7	16								5	8.5		6.5	12		22			77

At the end of term we had our Annual Interhouse House Music Competition which was a wonderful showcase of musical talent in our school which the boys and staff thoroughly enjoyed. The result of the competition was as follows:

1	Fuller	342	6	Pape	284
2	Calder	335	7	Nicholson	251
3	Commons	321	8	Barns	248
4	Lamond	299	9	Strachan	237
5	Forder	293	10	Snow	205

Congratulations to Fuller House on winning overall and to all the houses for their overall commitment and effort.

Pastor Rory Dyer:

We were privileged to have Pastor Rory Dyer of 3Ci come and speak to our boys and parents this term. He spoke to our boys during an assembly with a number of encouraging messages including motivating the boys to be 'Springbok Sons'.

That evening about 200 fathers came to a dad's evening hosted in the Olivier Cultural Centre. There Mr Luman shared some research with the dads as well as his own experiences of raising boys, which was very well received.

After this Pastor Dyer shared his story of his son calling him a 'Springbok Dad' and how we all as fathers should strive to be exactly that for our sons even though none of us are perfect. We need to be there for our sons.

We thank Mr Luman and Pastor Dyer for the time taken to do this presentation to our dads and we hope to have another function of this nature in the second term.

Dr Phil Cummins: Circle Education and a School for Tomorrow

We were privileged to have Professor Phil Cummins, from Australia, speak to our staff and boys. Professor Cummins heads up research into boys' schools and boys' education worldwide. He has been able to travel the world, speak to many headmasters and staff that run boy's schools. Through this, and extensive research, he has built up a treasure trove of ideas and advice for every boy's school.

His time spent with our staff in small and sometimes one-on-one meetings was invaluable and a number of great ideas were shared, many of which we will be exploring further next term.

He shared some very valuable research and ideas with our teaching staff and boys and I am sure that everyone that listened took something away that they could think about and work on.

We are still involved with Dr Cummins and his research, and we look forward to many more positive interactions with him.

Winter sport: Parents' Code of Conduct:

All players, staff, supporters, and Saturday visitors to College need to observe all reasonable COVID protocols during these stirring gatherings of the College tribe. We especially ask that all spectators observe the school's **Code of Conduct for Sports Matches** below – all College boys and staff, and all supporters, are expected to play/watch their matches in a spirit of camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

Please:

- Encourage the players to play by the rules.
- Encourage and applaud good play from both teams.
- Support the umpires and referees in every respect.
- Stay off the field of play at all times.
- Assist the players (off the field) with positive coaching.

Please Don't:

- Promote cheating or bending of the rules.
- Reprimand players for mistakes.
- Publicly question the referee's decisions.
- Promote "winning at all costs".
- Abuse referees / players / fellow spectators.

Also, no alcohol will be allowed onto the school grounds, and supporters seeking fortified refreshments are encouraged to sample the offerings of the Maritzburg Bowling Club nearby.

12 Angry Men

This year Maritzburg College celebrates 160 years of directing the potential of young men which is underpinned by its core values. Many of these core values are reflected in the inaugural theatrical production of the 160th celebrations - *12 Angry Men*. One of the challenges faced by Dramatic Arts teachers is to stage productions which are relevant and challenging to the learners and entertaining and didactic for the audience.

The play, originally conceived for television, lends itself to an intimate performance. The play deals with the deliberations of twelve jurors on a hot summer afternoon, who must decide the fate of a young man facing the death penalty for killing his father. The play's depiction of justice, democracy and human nature are as relevant today as when the play was first conceived. The theme of bias is a critical aspect, and it portrays the dangers of injustice. Throughout the play, the jurors face their own bias and pre-conceptions which threaten to undermine the impartiality of the justice system.

The directorial concept aimed to create an immersive theatrical experience seldom seen in live theatre performance. *12 Angry Men* was performed in-the-round in Maritzburg College's historic Victoria Hall. The choice of this theatrical style and the venue allowed for the feeling of gravitas and authenticity and the close

proximity of the performers and audience created a sense of intimacy. Hence, the audience became privy to the thoughts, prejudices and pre-conceptions of a diverse group of men, and witnessed how our experiences often colour our current decisions.

The cast remained on stage throughout the play; challenging the young performers who had to fully imbibe their characters, to sustain an authenticity during the performance. The 7-performance production ran from 9-15 March, and it was enjoyed by all who had attended.

My Fair Lady

For the 160th celebrations of Maritzburg College, the performing arts department have picked a grand musical for the Olivier Cultural Centre stage. *My Fair Lady* is a musical based on George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play *Pygmalion*, with a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe. The story concerns Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from Professor Henry Higgins, a phonetician, so that she may pass as a lady. Despite his cynical nature and difficulty understanding women, Higgins grows attached to her.

With songs like 'I could have danced all night', 'Getting Married in the morning' and 'On the street where you live' this beautiful production will not only introduce traditional 'classic' musical theatre to young people but will also be a enjoyable for all ages.

Tickets are R80 and are available via the email address bookings@mcollege.co.za

College Careers Focus 2023 - Directing the unique potential of our boys:

The school's annual Career Focus Expo is to be held on Tuesday 23 May, in the Alan Paton Memorial Hall. We have identified several individuals whom we believe would make a valuable contribution to our expo and who are in careers that would interest our boys. These individuals cover a wide range of careers from the traditional to the more unusual. We would be delighted if you and your sons would join us at this event. There will be **compulsory attendance** for all **3rd and 5th Form** pupils, but all boys from 3rd to 6th Form are welcome to attend.

Academic support:

College offers a wide range of academic support, free of charge for pupils who need it. Entrance into the academic support programme is based on need as well as on the work ethic of the boy concerned. If a boy is having trouble, he first needs to speak to his subject teacher, who will help where possible. Thereafter, should the need arise, he may attend the academic support programme for a particular subject. These sessions are offered after school and details of the programme are available on EDANA. In addition, pupils are encouraged to make full use of the resources on the school Moodle and their class TEAMS. Early intervention to address problem areas is encouraged.

Parents' evenings:

Parents' evenings are to be held in the Alan Paton Memorial Hall from 17:30 to 19:30 on designated days and are designed for parents to have short discussions about their sons' academic progress with their teachers. Should a longer discussion be necessary, parents are asked to make an appointment to see the relevant teacher at another time.

- ♦ 2nd Form – Tuesday 2 May
- ♦ 3rd Form – Monday 15 May

Passive fundraising via MySchool:

This programme provides a monthly income that benefits the school in several ways. We urge you, our parents, to simply download the MySchool App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and scan your virtual card at till points to give back to your causes every time you shop.

School fees:

We continue to humbly appeal to all parents to pay their son's school fees, to enable us to continue to supply an uncompromised level of education to our boys. Please continue to make the school account a priority.

Contact details:

We are continually updating the parents' database and we urge all parents to ensure that, should their contact details change, the school be notified as soon as possible. Changes can be emailed to info@mcollege.co.za.

Thank you for your continued support of your boys, the staff and the school. It is sincerely appreciated.

I wish you all a restful and happy holiday with your sons.

Pro Aris et Focis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Luman', with a horizontal line underneath.

CJ LUMAN
HEADMASTER